

present a measurably complete and flowing narrative. Whitman again advised us: "The main thing is to make the picture true. The rest will take care of itself—the rest must surely follow."

These pages, then, are variously charged, but with a burden whose import is purely according to Whitman's wish and expectation. The main part of the matter is new. Some of it is republished from inaccessible sources, because it may have more than temporary importance. Some of it comes for the first time into English by the hands of translators. As the work has been planned and has grown it becomes in effect a fresh gift, in which even repetition brings life again.

Whitman always insisted that his book should be recognized as something apart from or more than a literary performance. He spoke of it as "a cause." And he claimed that it was a cause in which all were interested, and that if his book failed to speak for all, or failed to make one voice of many voices, it had failed of its motive and aim. "First the human, then the literary," was his declared maxim.

There are certain essays here included which he intended using in his latest volume, and the design of this book really arose from our vehement objection to such a course as the one he proposed. Why violate the integrity of his own work with that of another, be this other however excellent? In the end he saw that we were right. But before the matter was concluded we had struck upon the notion that a volume made up to include the several articles so much esteemed by Whitman as interpretations of his history, and such other chapters as would broaden the measure of the picture, would have an importance not to be over-esteemed. Along through 1891, and even down to his death, Whitman discussed with us all plans and propositions. His sickness delayed our progress. But on his death-bed he frequently re-